

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2946 without my signature.

I recognize the importance that religious programs play in the rehabilitation of prisoners and I strongly support the continuing rights of clergy members to minister to the jail and prison population throughout the State of California. AB 2946 inhibits the ability to effectively maintain security and manage institutional religious programs.

Every state and local correctional facility has different dynamics and individual safety concerns that need to be addressed. We entrust facility administrators with the job of protecting the public, the inmates, staff, visitors and others. To do so, the administrator has to balance the interest of safety over the access to inmates by visitors. By imposing an extremely high standard before barring one class of visitor to the facility, we tie the hands of administrators to ensure public safety.

For this reason I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger